

S E C R E T

DCI BRIEFING

22 May 1961

IRAQ

- I. Disillusionment with the Qasim regime continues to spread throughout Iraq, and prominent politicians outside the government seem anxious to avoid any close association with it.
 - A. Even the Iraqi Communists have become vehement in their opposition as a result of the recent series of government crack-downs on Communist-front groups.
 - B. An uneasy atmosphere prevails in Baghdad: on 19 May police suppressed an attempted demonstration by trade unionists, and the military guard in a suburb visited by Qasim was the heaviest noted in many months.
 - C. Several different Iraqi groups--the Moslem Brotherhood, the Iraqi Baathists, a group of army and air force officers, and an organization of Iraqi exiles--are all reported to be engaged in separate plotting to assassinate or overthrow Qasim.
 - D. Such conspiracies would be more likely to succeed if they had substantial army support, which at present seems to be lacking.

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